



# Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

October, 2002

## Our November Meeting is the Annual Show!

November 3&4 2001 La Conner Garden Club, La Conner, WA.

From I-5 take exit 230, turn left onto WA-20, turn left onto Whitney La Conner, Whitney La Conner becomes Morris St., turn left on 2nd and go about 4 blocks, the Garden Club is on the right. Look for a white building, across from the Gaches Mansion.

### Notes from the Prez:

The meeting at the Holloshop turned out great. Sometimes it is nice not to have anything planned and just wing it. The holloshop always has some sort of jiggyery that can be demonstrated. Our members love to just hang and talk about wood-working. Those are some of the best times for the club.

Our Seattle woodworking tour and buying frenzy turned out to be a big hit! Thanks so very much to Jay for his idea and leadership. It was so nice to leave the driving to someone else. Everyone found something they just could not live without. All the stores treated us great. Most of them gave us a discount. I won a T-shirt from Hardwick's.

Anyway I will see you at the show in LaConner.

Gary

### October 1, 2002, Meeting Report

With the largest attendance of the year gathered at Gary Holoman's woodworking shop to hear Stuart Welsh speak . . . he didn't. He was, unfortunately, a no-show. Stuart forgot and we forgot to remind him not to forget. The popular wood-working instructor teaches in Bellingham but is best known for the world-class foods he stocks in his Rexville Grocery store near LaConner, close by the south fork of the Skagit. Stuart will appear at the January meeting.

President Gary took this opportunity to describe some of his shop techniques and demonstrate a few of his production jigs.

### Old Business

Secretary Geisel supplied host members with brochures for the retail store display racks and asked them to keep the racks re-supplied. He also urged those who were undecided about participating in the Seattle resources trip to make a decision that night so that a bus contract could be finalized.

Treasurer Mathews announced a bank balance of \$539.74.

*Arts Alive* was the main subject of the meeting. Concerns were raised by co-chairmen Phil Choquette and Nick Van over the delay in the refurbishment of the LaConner Garden Club building which, at that time, was still unusable. Optional buildings and plans were discussed. The chairmen said they would keep a close watch on the situation and keep members informed. Since that time, town officials have notified us that the Garden Club will be open to the three participating woodcraft organizations for the *Arts Alive* celebration. The exhibits will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, Saturday and Sunday, on November 2 and 3. The building will be open to the organizations on Friday evening, November 1, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for setting up displays.

### New Business

Treasurer Mathews announced the names of new members. They are David Curwick, Anacortes; Steve Intveld, Bellingham; Jean and Julian Lee, Mount Vernon; Michael Larvia, Mount Vernon; Walter Myers, Oak Harbor; John (Jack) Northey, Bellingham; Henry Nyland, Mount Vernon; Gerald (Gary) Rettig, Bellingham; and David and Becky Sophusson, Custer. We welcome you all! Two of the new members are local businessmen, Nyland is co-owner of LaConner Hardware and Curwick is co-owner of Wood House Custom Cabinets in Anacortes.

### Bring and Brag.

Phil "The Jig Man" Choquette showed three interesting ways to make life easier in the shop. One was a shortcut to sanding the edges of small workpieces. Larry Tomovick had three tools that he finds useful in his shop. One was a tape measure with large, bold printing; another was the Veritas edge-marking gauge with a circular knife-edged wheel for scribing scratch lines, and the third was Highland Hardware's popular calipers set that displays measurements in fractions of an inch. Geisel passed

around his simple pair of sliding sticks to measure inside cabinets and to check the diagonals for squaring up work. Printed instructions were made available.

Jay Geisel,  
NCWA Secretary

### Tour d'Woods

The professor stood front and center. "Will the class please come to order. Did you study the syllabus of Internet images I sent? Well, I have some slides of my own to show you."

It was like, oh boy, pay attention or you might fail the written test. Was Ray McInnes making sport of us? A kind of academia-nutty joke?

Well, it wasn't quite like that, but there was a syllabus e-mailed to everyone's home, and we were asked to bring it to the meeting that Ray hosted in his Bellingham work shop where he reflected on his recently completed, 8-day *Woodsmith*-sponsored tour for woodworkers. Ray, a retired university librarian, was doing it with the thoroughness of a researcher, and we enjoyed the difference.

The latest *Woodworking American Style* safari covered the talent-rich rural areas of Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky where Ray visited workshops of master craftsmen Don Russell, Brian Boggs, Nick Cook, and Kelly Mehler; other stops included the Makita tool plant, a family-owned sawmill, the Bera, Kentucky, craft centers, the Wallace Nutting gallery collection of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century furniture, and Shaker Village. Ray's interesting photographs are only a small part of the more than 2000 posted to the Web by others on the tour. As Ray states in the membership roster, he has a career-long interest in the intellectual history of furniture, particularly the Arts and Crafts movement. He currently is making pieces in that style. The tour was insightful, a fulfillment of the desire to see first-hand historic Americana and craftsmanship and the development of early furniture-making; both Ray and his wife found much to enjoy.

What did he learn? That knowledge is forthcoming. With the quantity of Web-based material available he has only scratched the surface of documenting the affairs of the week. Given Ray's skills at assemblage, annotation, cross-filing, referencing, Dewey-decimalizing, and whatever else he does, I'm sure we'll learn more.

Jay Geisel,  
Secretary

### Afterthoughts for Chartering A Bus

### Lessons Learned for the Next NCWA Bus Tour

There were suggestions from many on the inaugural bus tour that a Seattle trip become a yearly event, possibly held in the Spring and followed by an annual trip to the Seattle Woodworking Show at the Seattle Convention Center in the Fall. Another suggestion was for an all-day shopping trip to Veritas in Vancouver. Laid-back, uncomplicated trips by bus are certainly contagious when accompanied by cheerful, entertaining traveling companions.

To avoid any mass transportation pitfalls for this organization, I have the following suggestions for future charters and their tour directors:

1. Set realistic goals when planning the size of the group. This is no time for optimism. A show of hands or a sign-up sheet is of little help in reaching a final tally. Too often the early enthusiasts fade away.
2. Collect money early on and promise refunds for those with emergency cancellations.
3. Set the fares sufficiently high to cover charter costs, driver tip, and anticipated expenses. The latter may include refunds, prizes for games, refreshments, and the printing of nametags, restaurant menus, and schedule handouts.
4. Discount fares for early reservations are effective in getting people to commit.
5. Find a couple willing volunteers to help with promotion, collecting money, and "selling" the retailers on setting special discounts and contributing merchandise or gift certificates for the occasion.
6. Availability for local area charter vehicles can be summed up as van or mini (up to 11 people for about \$200), a small bus (maximum of 20 people, but not much cargo space, Bellair for example, at \$420), and a large 47 passenger deluxe coach with restroom, reclining seats, PA system, and plenty of storage below (Noah's Ark for \$500). We got the Best Buy.
7. I traveled with a great bunch of people who helped find ways to cover a shortfall and make the tour a success; they gave me a rewarding experience.

Jay Geisel

### Upcoming meeting news

Larry apologizes for Stuart Welsh not being at our previous meeting however, he has him rescheduled to give a presentation at our January meeting to be held at Gary's shop.

The December meeting will be held at Larry's shop in Anacortes featuring a renowned boat builder and furniture maker.



**Gary's adjustable bevel jig.**

The jig is stationary, The wood (shown by the block with the saw kerf) slides across the jig as it passes through the planer.



**Tony Lowe describing how he built a replacement wheel for a Civil War coffin carriage.**



**Phil the Jig Man's Contribution a jig to chamfer the edges of through tenons.**

Simply put it is a block of wood with a 90 degree angle removed and covered with sandpaper. The piece to be chamfered is rubbed the length of the block, easing the edges.



**Gary demonstrating a machine used to drill multiple holes for shelf pins.**

**Welcome to our new members!**

John Rutter  
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Henry Nyland  
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 Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
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Please update your roster with the above information

**Jake Strauss**

Kiln dried NW Washington hardwood  
 lumber. (Sales by appointment only)  
 6389 North Star Rd.  
 Ferndale, WA 98248  
 (360)384-3948

The NCWA was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education, and showcasing local woodworking. The NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers.. Dues are \$24 per year, payable to NCWA, 7550 Ershig Rd. Bow, Wa. 98232. Newsletter submissions are welcomed and are due by the 18th of the month to NCWA Newsletter, 925 South Hills Dr. Bellingham, Wa., 98226. Or call (360) 734-9473. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Location announced in the newsletter.

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